

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JANUARY 27, 2004

The wildfires in the fall of 2003 had a devastating impact on residents throughout Southern California. In Los Angeles forty-three residents in unincorporated Palmer Canyon near Claremont suffered the complete loss of their homes. Various government agencies at all levels, including the County of Los Angeles, are working diligently with affected residents to assist in re-building their homes.

Individuals whose homes were lost are entitled to eighteen months of living assistance under the "Individual Assistance" or "IA" Program administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to fire victims FEMA officials are now delaying and/or withholding monthly IA payments until residents present building plans for replacement residences in Palmer Canyon. Given the circumstances faced by the residents of Palmer Canyon, this policy is creating emotional distress amongst a group of individuals sorely in need of governmental assistance.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with copies to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, and Congressman David Dreier, requesting that FEMA cease this practice and take immediate measures to expedite Individual Assistance grants for temporary living assistance for Palmer Canyon residents.

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MOTION

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ANTONOVICH	_____
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